Directory, who object to my presence during the elections. Rather than be *de trop* here, I shall strive to pass my time pleasantly, as the season advances and the situation is delightful. I am told there is some good company, mostly *ci-devants* reduced; and I am loaded with recommendations. The minister and *commissaires* are very civil, and desire me not to think anything personal is meant to me, but my removal is a general measure, common to the Portuguese ambassador, &c.

I much fear the determination of the Government here not to consent to Sir Sidney Smith's release, and that of our ministers that his release must be a *sine qua non,* will end in the general exchange being refused on both sides. These series of victories over the Emperor, Trieste being taken, &c., will not render the Directory more obedient to our mandates, or value our threats the more. In the meantime, innumerable prisoners are kept in durance, because one point is not obtained *at present,* for it must be ceded at last. The liberty, perhaps the lives, of above a thousand poor *detenus* is depending. I have written this to

Lord Grenville, which may perhaps displease him.

Will it not be a pity if the business I am now upon, and which is now perfected, should fall to the ground—which I much fear will be